United Nations E/CN.3/2003/32

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
30 November 2002

Original: English

Statistical Commission
Thirty-fourth session
4-7 March 2003
Item 7 of the provisional agenda*
Provisional agenda and dates for the thirty-fifth session of the Commission

Activities of the Commission for Social Development and their possible implications for the work of the Statistical Commission

Note by the Secretary-General

Summary

The present note was prepared at the request of the Economic and Social Council. The purpose of the note is to inform the Statistical Commission of the ongoing activities of the Commission for Social Development that are related to the work of the Statistical Commission. The Statistical Commission may wish to take the present note into account during its review of agenda item 3 (Demographic and social statistics), in deciding the agenda for the thirty-fifth session and in amending its multi-year programme.

* E/CN.3/2003/1.

02-71742 (E) 161202

I. Activities of the Commission for Social Development that are relevant to the work of the Statistical Commission

1. The fortieth session of the Commission for Social Development was held in New York from 11 to 21 February 2002.

II. Documents before the Commission for Social Development

2. The Commission for Social Development discussed and endorsed three main reports. A report on integration of social and economic policy (E/CN.5/2002/3) provided an overview of the key challenges of social and economic policy and presented recommendations for action at the national and international levels. A report on follow-up to the International Year of the Family in 2004 (E/CN.5/2002/2) described recent initiatives undertaken at the international level in preparation for the observance of the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family in 2004. A report on Monitoring the implementation of the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities (E/CN.5/2002/4) presented the activities of the Special Rapporteur on Disability with regard to international monitoring of the implementation of the United Nations Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities.[1] The report also contained suggestions for a future monitoring system for the Standard Rules.

III. Implications for the Statistical Commission

3. The aforementioned report of the Secretary-General on follow-up to the International Year of the Family in 2004 has general statistical implications in that it presents plans for research activities geared towards families. They include research that focuses on changes in family structures and size of households, marriage and childbearing, divorce and single parenthood, migration, ageing, parent education, retirement and its implications for families, and HIV/AIDS and its impact on families.

4. The resolutions on disability have statistical implications as well in that they require statistical data for implementation and monitoring of the Standard Rules. Data are needed on the disability status of the population as well as on social and economic characteristics, such as education and labour-force participation. These data are necessary to monitor the extent to which persons with disabilities are included or excluded from the benefits of development compared to those without disabilities, taking into account gender issues and paying particular attention to such marginalized groups as children and the elderly.

Notes

[1] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.DPI/1454.